

## Job Aid:

### Organization Administrator: Multiorg Approval Path

#### This Job Aid shows how to:

- Create, manage and adjust approval paths to add a multiorg approver

#### Overview and Requirements:

Setting up a multiorg approval path requires the participation of Organization Administrators (OAs) from each participating organization. **It is critical to ensure legal foundation for adding other agency users. The organizations involved must have a valid Interagency Service Agreement (ISA) or some type of legal authority.** The OA from one organization gives access to a user to be an approver on another organization's approval path, and creates a multiorg approval path. Thought and structure must be developed or known to ensure approval paths are created properly, therefore we recommend only after discussion with the Agency Chief Procurement Officer, Chief Fiscal Officer and COMMBUYS liaisons should Approval Paths be entered into the system by the Organization Administrator (OA). The OA has the ability to add, edit, and remove all organization approval paths.

#### Screenshot



Welcome To **COMMBUYS**

**COMMBUYS**  
OPERATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION

COMMBUYS is the only official procurement record system for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Executive Departments. COMMBUYS offers free internet-based access to all public procurement information posted here in order to promote transparency, increase competition, and achieve best value for Massachusetts taxpayers.

**COMMBUYS INFORMATION:**  
For more information on COMMBUYS please visit the [COMMBUYS](#) support pages.  
[Training and Registration for Purchasers](#)  
[Training and Registration for Sellers](#)  
[Job Aids for Purchasers](#)  
[Job Aids for Sellers](#)

If you have any questions or concerns contact the COMMBUYS Help Desk at [COMMBUYS@state.ma.us](mailto:COMMBUYS@state.ma.us) or ring us during normal business hours (8AM – 5PM Monday – Friday) at 1-888-627-8283 or 617-720-3197.

- Register**  
Register here to begin using COMMBUYS.  
Vendors, please read this [disclaimer](#) prior to registering.
- Complete Registration**  
Complete registration here to begin using COMMBUYS.  
Vendors, please read this [disclaimer](#) prior to completing registration.
- Open Bids**  
Browse open bid opportunities.
- Active Contracts**  
Browse active Contracts/Blankets.
- Contract & Bid Search**  
Search for Bids and active Contracts/Blankets.
- Registered Vendor Search**  
Search for registered vendors.

Login ID:   
Password:

[Forgot your password?](#)

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#### Directions

1. Start a browser and access the COMMBUYS website by entering the URL  
<https://www.commbuys.com/bsol>

Log in using your Login ID and password.

## Job Aid: Organization Administrator: Multiorg Approval Path

### Screenshot

**Organization Administrator Home**

Department/Approval/Users | Document Settings | System Configuration | Maintenance Tables

**Maintain Agency Organizations/Departments/Locations**  
This section is used to administer agency organization, department and location information

**Configure Approval Settings**  
This section is used to configure system settings for approval path maintenance

**Maintain Agency Approval Paths**  
This section is used to administer agency approval paths

**Maintain Agency Users**  
This section is used to maintain agency users

**Maintain Assignment of Commodity-EPPs to Purchasers**  
This section is used to administer the association of purchasers with commodity codes

**Maintain Document Attachment Repository**  
This section is used to maintain files in the document attachment repository

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### Directions

2. At the OA home page select **Configure Approval Settings**.

### Administer System Settings for Approval Path

**Configure System Approval Settings**  
This section is used to configure system approval settings

**Maintain Approval Type Sequence**  
This section is used to maintain approval type sequence to allow the system to prioritize approval paths in the event of auto cascading approvals.

Exit

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3. Click **Maintain Agency Approval Type Sequence**

### Maintain Organization Approval Types for Operational Services Division

Organization: 1080 - Operational Services Division

Approval Type ID	Description	Priority	Status	Delete
NEW			Active	
BSC051	Business Office	40	Active	
GEN1	General Finance	10	Active	<a href="#">View Details</a>
IT1	IT Related	0	Active	
MG001	Manager Level	20	Active	
SP010	Supervisor Level	10	Active	<a href="#">View Details</a>
TEST IT	Test for UNSPSC	1	Active	<a href="#">View Details</a>
UNSPSC01	IT Technology	30	Active	<a href="#">View Details</a>
TEST02024	Test for UNSPSC	1	Inactive	<a href="#">View Details</a>

You cannot delete an approval type if there is an approval path associated with it.  
Neither can you deactivate an approval type if there is an active approval path associated with it.

Save & Exit | Save & Continue | Reset | Cancel & Exit

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4. The displayed list shows only the **Approval Types** your organization currently can utilize.

Remember Approval Types are categories to support approval paths; they are not approval paths themselves.

If an Approval Type is used in an Approval Path, you cannot edit the Approval Type.

If an Approval Type is not used in an Approval Path, you can edit the Approval Type, but can only change the Description, Priority, and Status fields.

## Job Aid:

### Organization Administrator: Multiorg Approval Path

#### Screenshot

##### Maintain Organization Approval Types for: Operational Services Division

Organization: 1080 - Operational Services Division

Approval Type ID	Description
new: <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Priority	Status	Delete
<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="Active"/> ▼	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### Directions

**Note:** This page is split into two images for ease of viewing.

5. To enter a new approval type, enter a 5 digit alpha numeric unique identifier for the **Approval Type ID**.

- For large organizations with many types of approvals, you may use this identifier to represent a chronological path represented by using the three letter department (HR123) or (IT001).

Name this Approval Path with a general **Description** of its purpose. It could be related to the individual type of purchase, or the level of authority needed to approve it.

Assign this Approval Path a **Priority**.

- 1 is lowest priority ; 99 is the highest.
- The system will route documents according to priority. An emergency purchase should use a high priority while office supplies typically have a low priority.

Click **Save & Continue** to save the current path and add another, or click **Save & Exit** to return to the previous screen.

Click **Cancel & Exit** to return to the homepage.

##### Organization Administrator Home

Department/Approval/Users | Document Settings | System Configuration | Maintenance Tables



**Maintain Agency**  
Organizations/Departments/Locations  
This section is used to administer agency organization, department and location information

**Configure Approval Settings**  
This section is used to configure system settings for approval path maintenance



**Maintain Agency Approval Paths**  
This section is used to administer agency approval paths

**Maintain Agency Users**  
This section is used to maintain agency users



**Maintain Assignment of Commodity-EPPs to Purchasers**  
This section is used to administer the association of purchasers with commodity codes

**Maintain Document Attachment Repository**  
This section is used to maintain files in the document attachment repository



6. Click **Maintain Agency Approval Paths** on the Organization Administrator Homepage.

## Job Aid:

### Organization Administrator: Multiorg Approval Path

#### Screenshot

**Approval Path Maintenance for: Organization DEF**

Search Using: ALL of the criteria

Search Fields:

Approval Path ID  Approval Path Name

Organization

Department

Location

Approval Type

Status  Access Role

Document Type  Doc Sub Type

Approver User

Browse by: A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Path ID	Name	Organization	Approval Type	Dollar Range From	Dollar Range To	Status
8001	Software Purchases	2100 - Organization DEF	LEVEL 10 - Manager	\$0.00	\$9,999,999.99	Active
8002	Budgetary Approval	2100 - Organization DEF	SUD17 - Budget Office Approval	\$0.00	\$9,999,999.99	Active
8003	POS	2100 - Organization DEF	SER05 - Services	\$0.00	\$50,000.00	Active
8004	Software Purchases	2100 - Organization DEF	LEVEL 10 - Manager	\$0.00	\$9,999,999.99	Active
8005	Software Purchases	2100 - Organization DEF	LEVEL 10 - Manager	\$0.00	\$99,999.99	Active
8006	Software Purchases	2100 - Organization DEF	LEVEL 10 - Manager	\$0.00	\$999,999.99	Active
8007	Office Supplies	2100 - Organization DEF	LEVEL 1 - Supervisor	\$0.00	\$99,999.99	Active
8008	Office Supplies	2100 - Organization DEF	LEVEL 10 - Manager	\$0.00	\$999,999.99	Active
8009	Software Purchases	2100 - Organization DEF	LEVEL 10 - Manager	\$0.00	\$9,999,999.99	Active
8010	All other purchases	2100 - Organization DEF	LEVEL 10 - Manager	\$0.00	\$99,999.99	Active
8011	All other	2100 - Organization DEF	LEVEL 1 - Supervisor	\$0.00	\$999,999.99	Active
8012	Office Supplies	2100 - Organization DEF	LEVEL 1 - Supervisor	\$0.00	\$9,999,999.99	Active
8013	Exemptions	2100 - Organization DEF	BOF03 - Business Office	\$25,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	Inactive
8014	Exemptions	2100 - Organization DEF	BOF10 - Business Office	\$25,000.00	\$9,999,999.99	Inactive
8015	Exemptions	2100 - Organization DEF	BOF18 - Exemptions	\$0.00	\$50,000.00	Active
8016	Exemptions	2100 - Organization DEF	BOF22 - Business Office	\$25,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	Inactive
8017	Exemptions	2100 - Organization DEF	BOF24 - Business Office	\$25,000.00	\$999,999.99	Inactive
8018	Frequent Purchases	2100 - Organization DEF	SUP17 - Supervisor	\$0.00	\$499,999.99	Inactive
8019	Frequent Purchases	2100 - Organization DEF	MAN17 - Manager	\$48,999.00	\$9,999,999.99	Inactive
8020	Frequent purchases	2100 - Organization DEF	SUP22 - Supervisor	\$0.00	\$48,999.00	Inactive
8021	Frequent purchases	2100 - Organization DEF	MAN22 - Manager	\$0.00	\$999,999.99	Inactive
8022	Frequent Purchases	2100 - Organization DEF	SUP23 - Supervisor	\$0.00	\$48,999.00	Inactive
8023	Frequent Purchases	2100 - Organization DEF	SUP24 - Supervisor	\$0.00	\$45,000.00	Inactive
8024	Frequent Purchases	2100 - Organization DEF	MAN24 - Manager	\$0.00	\$999,999.99	Inactive
8025	Frequent Purchases	2100 - Organization DEF	MAN23 - Manager	\$48,999.00	\$999,999.99	Inactive

#### Directions

7. The Maintain Agency Approval Paths icon, will display all the approval paths you currently have, both active and inactive.

**Note:** A Search box appears if your organization has more than 25 approval paths. Use the available search fields to locate an Approval Path you want to modify.

Click the Path ID to edit existing Approval Paths, or click **Add New Approval Path** (at the bottom of the page) to build a new path.

## Job Aid:

### Organization Administrator: Multiorg Approval Path

#### Screenshot

**New Approval Path**

**General** | Change Order | Misc/Freight | Department/Location | Email | Vendor | Summary

Approval Path ID\*: IT001

Organization: 1000 - Operational Services Division

Dollar Range\*: 0.00 to 150000.00

Roles: ☒ Basic Purchasing ☒ Department Access ☐ Inventory User ☐ Accounts Payable

Description\*: IT Purchases

Approval Type\*: IT001 - IT Approval

Status: Active

**Approval Doc/Doc Sub Types**

☒ Regulation ☒ Unposted Bid ☒ Evaluated Bid ☒ Purchase Order ☒ PO Change Order ☐ Vendor Performance ☐ PO Receiving ☐ Invoice ☐ Credit Memo

☒ RPA Release ☒ Blanket ☒ Blanket ☒ Blanket ☐ Invoice with Change Order ☐ Invoice-Regular

☒ Inventory ☒ Contract ☒ Contract ☒ Contract

☒ Demand ☒ Open Market ☒ Open Market ☒ Direct Open Market

☒ Open Market ☒ Open Market ☒ Open Market

☒ RPA ☒ G2B Blanket

☒ Release ☒ Release

**Approvers**

Approver User	Level	Type	Delete
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Primary <input type="radio"/> Alternate	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Primary <input type="radio"/> Alternate	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>

If you don't select any roles(doc type/doc sub types), the approval path will be associated with all the roles(doc type/doc sub types).

#### Directions

8. Enter the required information, proceeding left to right through the tabs. Fields with an asterisk (\*) are required fields.

When finished with one tab of fields, click **Save & Continue** then proceed to the next tab.

#### General Tab:

- **Approval Path ID** – A unique 5-digit alpha numeric ID related to the use of the path. For example if it is a path for a specific department, you may choose to use the first three characters of the department name followed by a path number.
- **Description or Approval Path Name** – The path name should indicate the kind of path. E.g., using the HR Approval type referenced above, this path could be named Contract Employee Approval.
- **Approval Type** – A pull-down list of your organization's Approval types.
- **Dollar Range** – Required; to enable for all dollar amounts, set dollar range from 0.00 to 9,999,999,999,999.99.
- **Status** – Active/Inactive.
- **Roles** – Designates the COMMBUYS role that may use this Approval Path. If no roles are selected, this path will apply to all roles.
- **Approval Doc/Doc Sub Types** – Select all document types that will apply to this path. If no document types are selected, the approval path applies to all document types so long as the other criteria of the path are met
- **Select Approvers** - Use the eyeglass box to search for the desired approvers (more detail in next step)
- **Level** - Level 1 is the first approver, and if additional levels are needed level 2 would be the second approver, etc.
- **Type** - A Primary approver indicates the required approver. Choosing an alternate approver makes the document available to both approvers. Either can approve the document. Only one alternate and one primary are allowed per level.

Click **Save & Continue**.

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### Organization Administrator: Multiorg Approval Path

#### Screenshot

User Lookup for: Operational Services Division

Search Using: ALL of the criteria

First Name: Alyssa Last Name: Arnold

Login ID:

Organization: Department of Revenue

Department:

Location:

User Role: Basic Purchasing, Department Access, Inventory User, Accounts Payable

Browse by: A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Find It Clear

#### Directions

9. A **User Lookup** window opens. To search for user by Organization, use the Organization drop down to find the multiorg approver. You can use any of the other search field instead if that is easier.

Click **Find It**

#### Remember:

- An ISA is required in order to select the appropriate user.
- Just because some users are an option, does not mean you have permission to designate them as an approver.

User Lookup for: Operational Services Division

Search Using: ALL of the criteria

First Name: Alyssa Last Name: Arnold

Login ID:

Organization: Department of Revenue

Department:

Location:

User Role: Basic Purchasing, Department Access, Inventory User, Accounts Payable

Browse by: A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Find It Clear

Select	Login ID	First Name	Last Name	Status	Role(s)
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	ALYSSAA	Alyssa	Arnold	Active	Basic Purchasing Grant Multiorg Approval Rights

Select Close Window

10. Select the eligible user for this approval path by clicking the **Select** radio button.

Click **Select** at the bottom of the page.

Note: User from another organization only appear once they have been granted multiorg approval rights.

Approvers

Approver User	Level	Type
Arnold, Alyssa	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Primary <input type="radio"/> Alternate
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Primary <input type="radio"/> Alternate

11. The selected user appears as an approver. user

If need to designate an additional approver, select from the drop down to find an approver with your organization, or use the eyeglass icon again to find a user from another organization.

Click the **UNSPSC Code** tab.

## Job Aid:

### Organization Administrator: Multiorg Approval Path

#### Screenshot

Approval Path IT001 - IT Purchases

General | Change Order | Misc/Freight | Department/Location | Email | **UNSPSC Code** | Vendor | Summary

No specific UNSPSC Segment-Family/Class found for this approval path, therefore the approval path is considered to be associated with all the UNSPSC Segment-Family/Class codes.

Add UNSPSC Segment-Family/Class

#### Directions

12. Click **Add UNSPSC Segment-Family/Class** button to add commodity codes to this approval path.

A new window opens showing a search box, which we will see on the next slide. In this example we will search for IT related UNSPSC codes, to which we assign to this approval path.

Note: A path that has this feature enabled applies to all departments in the organization. That is, if you create an approval path based on a Department/Location, you should not add UNSPSC Code to that path.

Approval Path IT001 - Search NIGP Codes

General | Change Order | Misc/Freight | Department/Location | Email | **UNSPSC Code** | Vendor | Summary

Search Using: ALL of the criteria

Category: 43 - Information Technology Broadca...

Search Fields: Segment-Family ID, Segment-Family Description, Class ID, Class Description

Browse by: A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Result Type: Class

Find It Clear

Select	Segment-Family ID	Description
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	43-19	Communications Devices and Accessories
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	43-20	Components for information technology or broadcasting or tel
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	43-21	Computer Equipment and Accessories
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	43-22	Data Voice or Multimedia Network Equipment or Platforms and
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	43-23	Software

Save & Exit Save & Continue Cancel & Exit

13. Click the **Select** button adjacent to the correct corresponding UNSPSC codes. Note how the top Select button, will select all.

Click **Save & Continue** to perform another search and add further codes, or click **Save & Exit** to return to the saved view of UNSPSC codes for this approval path.

Approval Path IT001 - IT Purchases

General | Change Order | Misc/Freight | Department/Location | Email | **UNSPSC Code** | Vendor | Summary

Confirmation Messages

- Changes saved successfully

Approval Path UNSPSC Segment-Family List

Segment-Family ID	Description	Delete
43-19	Communications Devices and Accessories	<input type="checkbox"/>
43-20	Components for information technology or broadcasting or tel	<input type="checkbox"/>
43-21	Computer Equipment and Accessories	<input type="checkbox"/>
43-22	Data Voice or Multimedia Network Equipment or Platforms and	<input type="checkbox"/>
43-23	Software	<input type="checkbox"/>

Approval Path UNSPSC Class List

Segment-Family-Class	Description	Delete
There are no UNSPSC Class found for this approval path.		

Save & Continue Add UNSPSC Segment-Family/Class Delete All UNSPSC Segment-Family/Class Reset

14. All the appropriate codes are saved on the **UNSPSC Code** tab. You add or delete codes at any time.

For example if a purchasing user in your agency finds that a commodity or service that requires approval through this path is being missed, the OA can return to this path and add additional UNSPSC codes.

## Job Aid:

### Organization Administrator: Multiorg Approval Path

#### Screenshot

Approval Path IT001 - IT Purchases

General Change Order Misc/Freight Department/Location Email U N S P S C Code Vendor Summary

**General Information**

Approval Path ID: IT001 Description: IT Purchases Organization: 1000 - Operational Services Division

Approval Type: IT001 - IT Approval Dollar Range: \$0.00 to \$150,000.00 Roles: Basic Purchasing Department Access

Status: Active

Send Email: Yes Customized Email Content: No

Doc Types (Doc Sub Types): Requisition Unrequisitioned Bid Evaluated Bid Purchase Order PO Change Order

**Approver**

Approver User	Level	Type
Alyssa Arnold	0	Primary

**Change Order**

Apply approval path for all changes to document was selected by the user from the Change Order Tab.

**Misc/Freight**

No Misc/Freight options have been set

**Approval Department/Location**

No threshold was specified for the Miscellaneous or Freight Charges for this the Invoice Approval Path therefore this approval path will be attached to any invoice that meets the other criteria and has any Miscellaneous or Freight Charges.

**Approval U N S P S C Codes**

**U N S P S C Segment/Family List:**

Segment/Family ID	Description
43-19	Communications Devices and Accessories
43-20	Components for information technology or broadcasting or tel
43-21	Computer Equipment and Accessories
43-22	Data Voice or Multimedia Network Equipment or Platforms and
43-23	Software

**U N S P S C Class List:**

Segment/Family Class	Description
There are no U N S P S C Class found for this approval path.	

**Vendors**

No vendors have been selected

Add New Approval Path Clone Approval Path Print Exit

#### Directions

15. **Summary tab:** Allows you to view all the information entered for this path.

The path does not require submission, and is active until changed or removed.

If you need to create a similar approval path, you can use the **Clone Approval Path** button to create an exact copy of this approval path, and then and edit it. Navigate through the tabs as we did in this example.